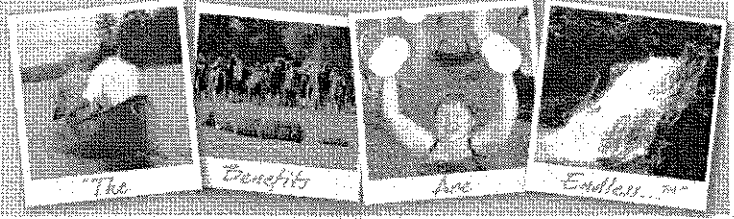


CONNECTICUT RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION



February 7, 2013

Testimony on Proposed Bill 5113 – An Act Concerning Pool Safety at Schools

Members of the Public Safety Committee,

I am the Recreation Supervisor for the Town of Glastonbury Parks and Recreation Department. Part of my job is to manage the Town's four (4) aquatics facilities, which includes the hiring, training and supervising of over 50 lifeguards. Additionally, I am a member of the Connecticut Recreation and Park Association, Inc. (CRPA) Board of Directors. CRPA is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to provide a network of support to our members through professional development and resources in order to enhance the quality of recreation and parks services in Connecticut.

As an aquatics professional for over 25 years, I support initiatives to create a statewide standard for the safe operation and oversight of public pools. Specifically, the following requirements will greatly enhance public safety in all of our public swimming pools.

- All public pools shall have a minimum of one certified lifeguard during all instructional swim lessons and/or open swims.
- All public pools shall have a minimum of either one lifeguard or one coach that is lifeguard certified during swim team practices and/or meets and such coach shall remain in full view of the pool while in use.

As Parks and Recreation professionals, we are very strong advocates for providing quality and safe recreation experiences for our community. In doing so, we go to great lengths to follow professional standards, obtain training and research BEST PRACTICE protocols in everything we do.

Sincerely,

William H. Engle, CPRP
Recreation Supervisor



FOLLOW US ON: 